



# Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending March 15, 2014

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response  
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

*The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.*

## SUMMARY

During the week ending March 15, 2014, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **LOCAL** geographic spread. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI, as reported by our Sentinel Providers and Emergency Departments, continued to decline. The proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI increased slightly but remained low. The number of specimens tested at our Sentinel Labs and at the State Lab decreased, but the percent of those specimens testing positive for influenza increased for each. Twenty-three influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported, which is similar to the number reported at this point last week. There were four outbreaks of respiratory disease. Nationwide, flu activity continued to drop.

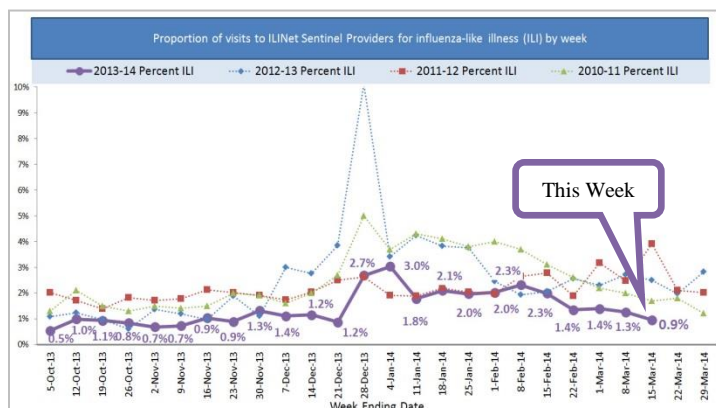
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
Sporadic
✓ Local
Regional
Widespread

## ILINet Sentinel Providers

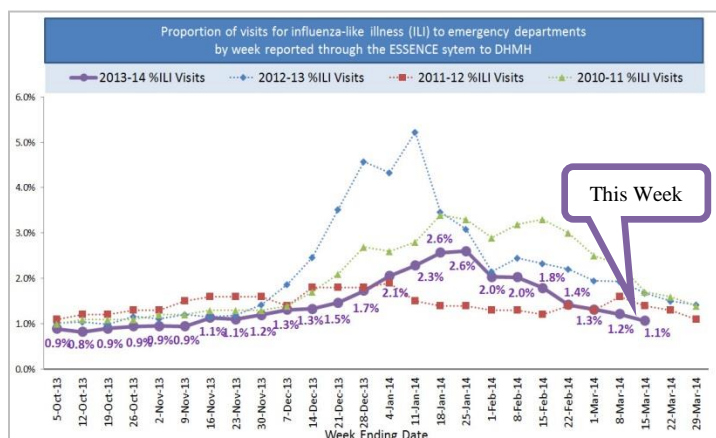
Twelve sentinel providers reported a total of 8,320 visits this week. Of those, 79 (0.9%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	18 (23%)	18 (19%)	826 (25%)
Age 5-24	24 (30%)	41 (43%)	1293 (39%)
Age 25-49	26 (33%)	26 (27%)	881 (27%)
Age 50-64	7 (9%)	8 (8%)	250 (8%)
Age ≥ 65	4 (5%)	3 (3%)	69 (2%)
Total ILI Visits	79 (100%)	96 (100%)	3319 (100%)

## Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 43,744 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 466 (1.1%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	93 (20%)	108 (22%)	3784 (25%)
Age 5-24	132 (28%)	138 (28%)	3951 (26%)
Age 25-49	166 (36%)	173 (35%)	5017 (33%)
Age 50-64	60 (13%)	56 (11%)	1689 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	15 (3%)	22 (4%)	659 (4%)
Unknown	0 (0%)	2 (<1%)	31 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	466 (100%)	499 (100%)	15131(100%)

## Other states' influenza information:

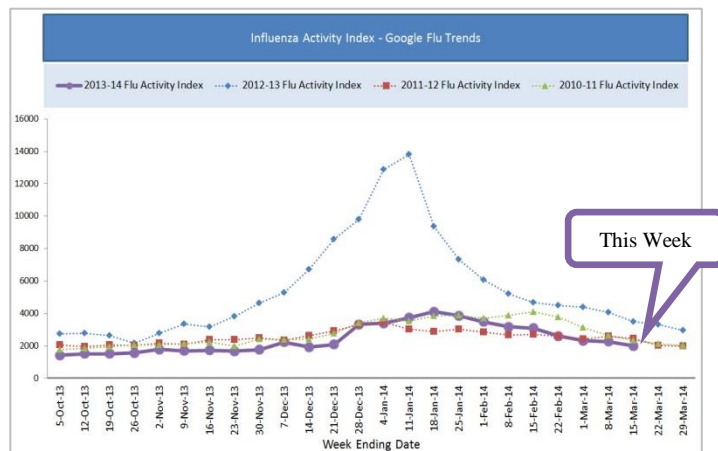
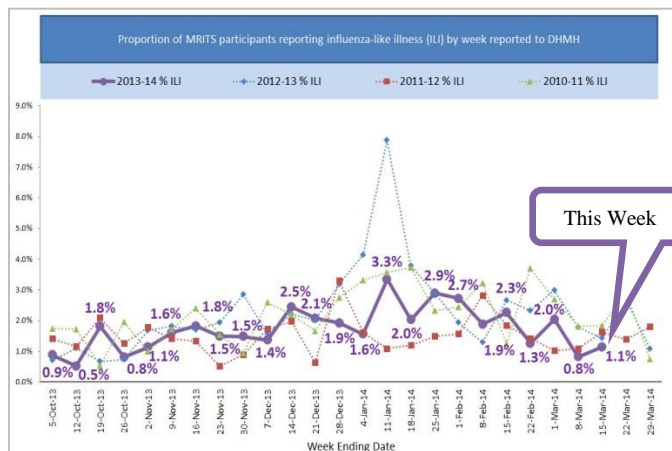
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>  
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>  
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza\\_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)  
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>  
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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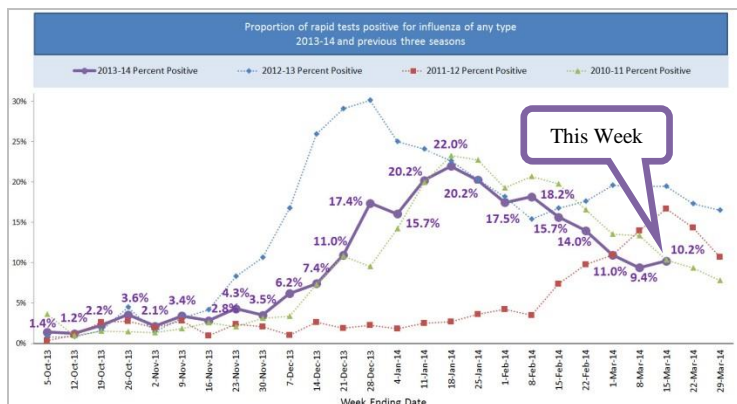
## Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 613 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 7 (1.1%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 14 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "Low" in Maryland.

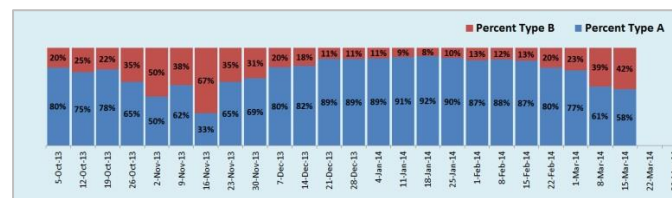


## Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-four clinical laboratories reported performing 2,200 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 225 (10.2%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 130 (57.8%) were influenza Type A and 95 (42.2%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

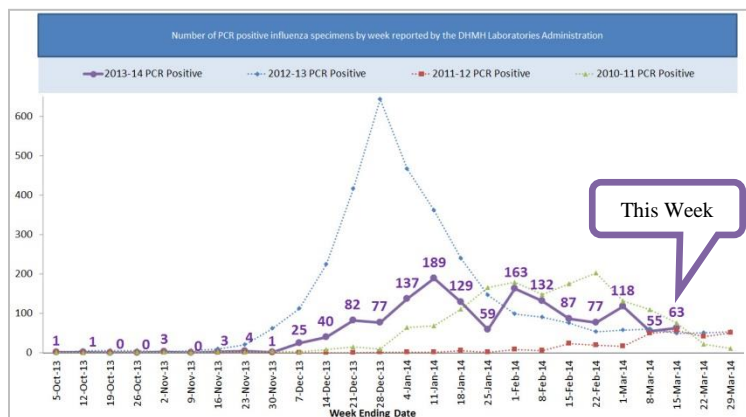


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	130 (58%)	159 (61%)	6319 (86%)
Type B	95 (42%)	103 (39%)	1070 (14%)
Total	225 (100%)	262 (100%)	7389 (100%)



## State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 140 PCR tests for influenza and 63 (45.0%) specimens tested positive. Of those, 52 (82.5%) were Type A (H1N1), seven (11.1%) were Type A (H3N2), and four (6.3%) were Type B. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	52 (83%)	52 (95%)	1358 (94%)
Type A (H3)	7 (11%)	2 (4%)	64 (4%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	4 (6%)	1 (2%)	24 (2%)
Total	63 (100%)	55 (100%)	1446 (100%)

## Where to get an influenza vaccination

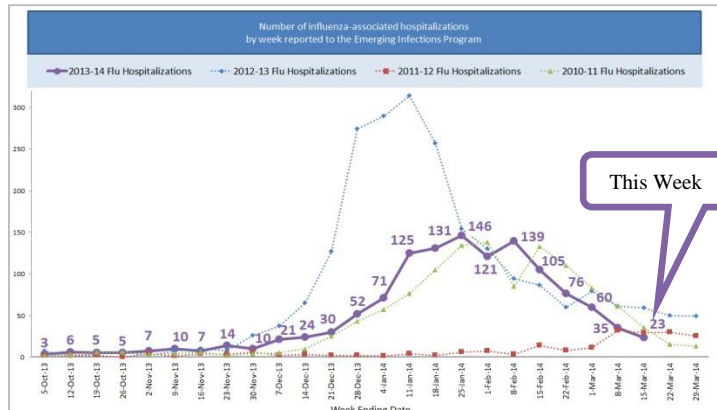
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2013-14 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flum/d/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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## Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

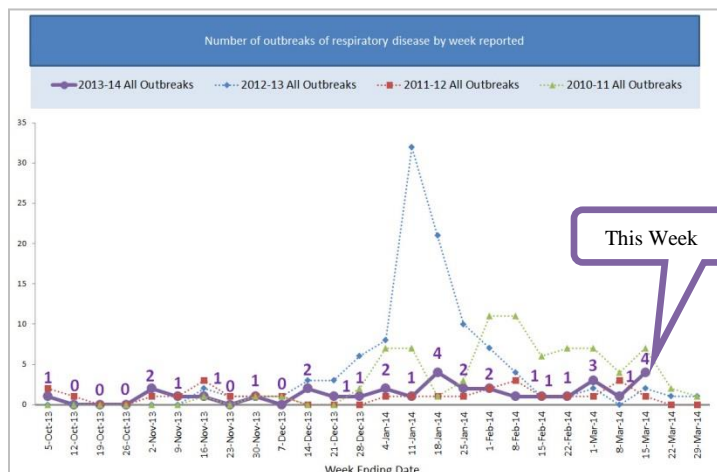
This week, hospitals in Maryland reported 23 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	5 (22%)	0 (0%)	121 (10%)
Age 5-17	3 (13%)	0 (0%)	52 (4%)
Age 18-24	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	46 (4%)
Age 25-49	4 (17%)	11 (31%)	325 (27%)
Age 50-64	5 (22%)	11 (31%)	363 (30%)
Age ≥ 65	6 (26%)	12 (34%)	319 (26%)
Total	23 (100%)	35 (100%)	1226 (100%)

## Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were four outbreaks of respiratory disease reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	1 (25%)	1 (100%)	17 (53%)
Influenza-like Illness	2 (50%)	--	8 (25%)
Pneumonia	1 (25%)	--	7 (22%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	4 (100%)	1 (100%)	32 (100%)

## National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

- **Viral Surveillance:** Of 5,650 specimens tested and reported during week 11 by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories, 495 (8.8%) were positive for influenza.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- **Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths:** Seven influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- **Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A season-cumulative rate of 30.4 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.7%, which is below the national baseline of 2.0%. Four of 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. One state experienced moderate ILI activity; two states and New York City experienced low ILI activity; 47 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in four states was reported as widespread; nine states reported regional influenza activity; the District of Columbia and 19 states reported local influenza activity; Puerto Rico, Guam, and 18 states reported sporadic influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands reported no influenza activity.

